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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 9-14, 16 and 17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 9 and 13.

Claims 9-11 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mandai et al. (U.S. 5,187,455). And Claims 12-14 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mandai et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claim 9 has been amended to recite:

“A delay line comprising:
a multilayer structure formed by laminating a plurality of dielectric layers;
a transmission line formed on a dielectric layer embedded in the multilayer structure;
a plurality of ground conductors disposed on the dielectric layers and a pair of said ground conductors being disposed on opposite sides of the transmission line; and
a capacitance disposed on the multilayer structure and connected in parallel to the transmission line for setting a desired delay time of the delay line, wherein said capacitance is adjustable.
(emphasis added)

Claim 13 recites features that are similar to the features recited in claim 9, including the emphasized features.

With the unique combination and arrangement of elements recited in claims 9 and 13 of the present application, including “a capacitance disposed on the multilayer structure and connected in parallel to the transmission line for setting a desired delay time of the delay line, wherein said capacitance is adjustable,” the delay time of the delay line can be adjusted even after being mounted on a printed circuit board, and the delay time of the delay line can be continuously adjusted (see, for example, the second full paragraph on page 2 of the specification, as originally filed).

The Examiner alleged that Mandai et al. teaches all of the features recited in the present claimed invention including capacitances C1 and C2 disposed on the multilayer

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structure and connected to the transmission line 6. However, as clearly seen in Fig. 4 and disclosed in col. 3, lines 50-55 of Mandai et al., the capacitance C1 is connected in series between the transmission line 7 and the grounding electrode 5, NOT connected in parallel to the transmission line. Thus, Mandai et al. clearly fails to teach or suggest "a capacitance disposed on the multilayer structure and connected in parallel to the transmission line for setting a desired delay time of the delay line, wherein said capacitance is adjustable" as recited in the present claimed invention.

With the arrangement of elements of Mandai et al., the delay time of the delay line is controlled by changing the characteristic impedance of the transmission line, and as a result, the delay time of the delay line cannot be adjusted after being mounted on a printed circuit board, and the delay line cannot be continuously adjusted, as in the present claimed invention. Thus, Mandai et al. cannot be fairly construed as teaching the present claimed invention or rendering the present claimed invention obvious.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Mandai et al. fails to teach or suggest the unique combination and arrangement of elements recited in claims 9 and 13 of the present application.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 9 and 13 are allowable. Claims 10-12, 14, 16 and 17 depend upon claims 9 and 13, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claims 9 and 13 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

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